

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A hanger configured for use with a cap of a container, the hanger comprising:

(a) a coil sized to fit within ~~[[a]]~~ the cap of ~~[[a]]~~ the container, wherein the coil is configured to be compressed such that the circumference of the coil is reduced when the coil is installed inside the cap;

(b) a body connected to the coil, in which the body is configured to extend away from the coil and ~~[[a]]~~ the cap when the coil is installed inside the cap; and

(c) a hook connected to the body, in which the hook is configured to engage an external structure for hanging ~~[[a]]~~ the cap from the external structure when the coil is installed inside the cap and the cap is removed from ~~[[a]]~~ the container.

2. (Original) The hanger of Claim 1, in which the coil, body, and hook are constructed of wire.

3. (Original) The hanger of Claim 2, in which the wire used to construct the coil, body, and hook is a single integral length of wire.

4. (Original) The hanger of Claim 2, in which the wire is made of stainless steel.

5. (Currently amended) The hanger of Claim 1, in which the coil is comprised of ~~one or more~~ to three loops.

6. (Original) The hanger of Claim 1, in which the coil is comprised of a partial loop.

7. (Original) The hanger of Claim 1, in which the coil is configured to be retained within the cap by spring tension against the cap.

8. (Original) The hanger of Claim 1, in which the body is further configured with an intermediate bend providing a space that accommodates a feature of the cap.

9. (Currently amended) The hanger of Claim 8, in which the ~~feature is~~ intermediate bend provides a space that accommodates a vent in the cap.

10. (Previously presented) The hanger of Claim 1, in which the hanger is further configured to remain in the cap when the cap is attached to the container.

11. (Currently amended) Apparatus for securing a cap of a container to an external structure when the cap is removed from the container, the apparatus comprising:

(a) retaining structure configured to be compressed with a reduced circumference to fit inside ~~[[a]]~~ the cap and engage the interior of the cap when the retaining structure is installed inside the cap; and

(b) securing structure connected to the retaining structure that releasably secures ~~[[a]]~~ the cap to an external structure when the retaining structure is installed inside the cap and the cap is removed from ~~[[a]]~~ the container.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, in which the retaining structure uses friction to releasably engage the interior of the cap when the apparatus is installed in the cap.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12, in which the retaining structure is a coil, wherein outward spring tension from the coil presses the coil against the interior of the cap and retains the coil in the cap.

14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, in which the retaining structure is an eyelet sized to receive a fastener that is secured within the interior of the cap and thereby engage the interior of the cap when the apparatus is installed in the cap.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, in which the retaining structure includes a coil that engages the interior of the cap and an eyelet sized to receive a fastener that is secured within the interior of the cap.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, in which the securing structure is a clip.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, in which the securing structure is a hook.

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, in which the securing structure is a loop with a closure mechanism.

19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, in which the retaining structure is further shaped with an intermediate bend forming a space that accommodates a feature of the cap.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 19, in which the ~~feature~~ intermediate bend forms a space that accommodates a vent in the cap.

21. (New) In combination, a cap and hanger apparatus comprising:

- (a) a cap configured to removably cover an opening in a container; and
- (b) a hanger configured with
 - (1) a coil sized to fit within the cap, wherein the coil is configured to be compressed such that the circumference of the coil is reduced when the coil is installed inside the cap;
 - (2) a body connected to the coil, in which the body is configured to extend away from the coil and the cap when the coil is installed inside the cap; and
 - (3) a hook connected to the body, in which the hook is configured to engage an external structure for hanging the cap from the external structure when the coil is installed inside the cap and the cap is removed from the container.